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Assembly California Legislature



MIKE FEUER

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FORTY-SECOND DISTRICT

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TOXIC MATERIALS
JUDICIARY
REVENUE AND TAXATION

September 28, 2007

Federal Transit Administration
James Simpson, Administrator
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Simpson:

I write to express my strong support for the Very Small Starts application for Fiscal Year 2009 recently submitted by Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for bus-only lanes on Wilshire Boulevard, Sepulveda Boulevard, and Van Nuys Boulevard. These projects are in my Assembly district, and will provide much-needed relief for the many transit riders who depend on Metro buses for work, school, and appointments.

The projects included in Metro's Very Small Starts application will build upon their highly successful Metro Bus Rapid Program. Improvements to these important corridors will increase mobility for thousands of transit riders. I urge the FTA to invest in the Metro Rapid Program as it reaches the mid-point of its expansion to 28 corridors across Los Angeles County.

Wilshire Boulevard is the heaviest traveled transit corridor in Los Angeles County. Ridership on the corridor is approximately 93,000 boardings per day. During peak periods, 132 buses operate in the project area each weekday. As congestion on the Westside of Los Angeles deteriorates, the Wilshire Boulevard Bus-Only lane project offers a near term and cost effective solution to improving mobility in the western region of the County of Los Angeles.

In the San Fernando Valley, Sepulveda Boulevard and Van Nuys Boulevard also experience heavy congestion and high transit ridership. The Sepulveda Corridor Bus-Only Lane project will positively impact the 11,300 weekday boardings currently using the line by improving passenger travel times by an estimated 24%.

The Van Nuys corridor has the highest transit ridership in the San Fernando Valley with nearly 33,000 average weekday boardings. The proposed project will improve bus speeds, travel times and schedule reliability in the Van Nuys corridor making it a more attractive service.

I believe that the proposed projects will bring measurable benefits to Los Angeles County. I urge the FTA to fund the projects requested in Metro's Very Small Starts application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Feuer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping "M" and a distinct "F".

Mike Feuer
Assemblymember, 42nd District